

2/23/09

Dear Committee Members,

I recently became licensed as a foster family and through the 10 week training, have learned what a difficult beginning children in foster care experience. Many foster parents don't have enough money to afford private adoption, and instead become foster or pre-adoptive families, and then eventually adopt a child. Many of the children will never attend college because the families can't afford the expense. **Let's help children who have had an extremely rough start in life, be given the opportunity to attend college.**

If I were to adopt, my child would be eligible for free college tuition and board because of a somewhat new opportunity DCF can offer families that adopt. Unfortunately though, if the child was adopted prior to December 31, 2004, that child can not benefit from the wonderful college opportunity my child would receive. Currently of the 2,235 children adopted since 2004, there are 13 students utilizing the post-secondary assistance (data provided from the Adoption and Interstate Compact Services Bureau Chief, Department of Children and Families, June M. Wiehn 2/20/09).

What makes the child born prior to December 31, 2004 less needy?

Sometimes in life all it takes to succeed is a little extra help. Let's give adopted foster children that help.

PLEASE PASS PROPOSED BILL 5691 - An Act Concerning Postsecondary Tuition Assistance and Special Need Subsidies for Adopted Children

Respectfully,

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